

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 5, 2007. Claims 3, 4 and 7-10 remain in this application. Claim 3 is the independent Claim. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 11-13, which were withdrawn due to a Restriction Requirement, are canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 4 and 7-9 have been amended. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 3, 4 and 8 were objected to because of an informality. In response, Applicant has amended that acronym with "data base (DB)." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objection are respectfully requested.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claims 3, 4 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. With respect to independent Claim 3, Applicant respectfully submits that proper antecedent basis is provided for the claim term "authentication." On page 2, line 14 of the instant amendment, Claim 3 recites, "authenticating validity thereof," which precedes and provides proper antecedent basis for the phrase, "the authentication," found on page 2, line 16. Further clarification is respectfully requested. With respect to Claims 4 and 7-10, Applicant has amended Claims 3, 4 and 7-9 to recite sufficient antecedent basis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,502,806 (Mahoney); Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mahoney in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0174003 (Redmann); Claim 10 was rejected as obvious over Mahoney in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,948,040 (DeLorme). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Mahoney Reference

Mahoney is directed to a waiting line management system using cards and computer terminals for minimizing the waiting period for the use of attractions such as rides, events, concerts, food service or other services within theme parks. Computer access terminals are located in a plurality of locations within the theme park 40. In particular, card satellite terminals 22, 24 and 26 are located within the them park 40 and the card line terminals 28, 30 and 32 are placed inside the waiting line area of a specific ride, event or food service outlet within the theme park. The patron interacts with a computer access terminal 42 of the card satellite terminals 22, 24 and 26 and card line terminals 28, 30 and 32 (*See Mahoney; Col. 1, lines 13-15, Col. 2, lines 18-19, FIG. 2 and Col. 3, lines 43-48 and lines 57-59*).

The Redmann Reference

Redmann is directed to a method for creating itineraries for a party of visitors to a facility, the facility having a multiple attractions (*See Redmann; Abstract*).

The DeLorme Reference

DeLorme is directed to a computerized planning system that generates a map ticket. Travel Reservation Information Planning System (TRIPS) outputs a computed route having points of interest located on map displays. Comparable symbolic terminology can display itinerary, topical item and/or reservation confirmation information (*See DeLorme; Abstract Col. 22, lines 46-58*).

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a facility reserving system.

As defined by amended independent Claim 3, a facility reserving system which is connected to a user terminal via a communications network is provided. By use of an admission ticket mounted with an information storage element having a computer-identifiable unique, first identifier, a reservation for admission into one or more facilities is installed at a site to which admittance granted with this admission ticket is carried out. An authenticating means for receiving a human-perceptible unique, second identifier is displayed on the sold admission ticket via the communications network and thereby authenticating the validity thereof. A reservation information registering means for carrying out communications with the user terminal upon obtaining the authentication and registering, with a facility reservation data base (DB) is provided. The first identifier and information for reserving facility names and reservation time slots as facility reservation information thereof are produced by a user operating the user terminal in an associated manner. The site encloses the one or more facilities and the user terminal is provided outside the site.

The applied reference does not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention as defined by amended independent Claim 3. In particular, the applied

reference does not disclose or suggest, "the site encloses the one or more facilities and the user terminal is provided outside the site," as required by amended independent Claim 3.

Mahoney is directed to a waiting line management system using cards and computer terminals for minimizing the waiting period for the use of attractions such as rides, events, concerts, food service or other services within theme parks. Computer access terminals are located in a plurality of locations within the theme park (*See Mahoney; Col. 1, lines 13-15, Col. 2, lines 18-19, FIG. 2*). In particular, card satellite terminals 22, 24 and 26 are located within theme park 40 and card line terminals 28, 30 and 32 are placed inside the waiting line area of a specific ride, event or food service outlet within theme park 40. The patron interacts with a computer access terminal 42 of the card satellite terminals 22, 24 and 26 and card line terminals 28, 30 and 32 (*See Mahoney; Col. 3, lines 43-48 and lines 57-59*).

In contrast, the present invention requires the site to enclose one or more facilities and the user terminal to be provided outside the site. In this manner, a user can reserve time slots for admission into facilities from outside a site. Mahoney merely provides card access terminals 42 outside the attractions that are all within the theme park 40. Mahoney clearly does not provide user terminals outside the theme park from which a user may register facility names and reservation time slots. Thus, the selection of ride times is not possible from outside the theme park site enclosing the various attraction facilities by Mahoney.

Thus, Mahoney does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by amended independent Claim 3. The ancillary references do not remedy the deficiencies of Mahoney.

Since the applied reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 3, this reference cannot be said to

anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 3 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 3 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

For example, with respect to dependent Claim 10, the claim requires, "a display control means for displaying... a present location." In this manner, additional information is provided to the user. DeLorme is directed to a computerized planning system that generates a map ticket. Travel Reservation Information Planning System (TRIPS) outputs a computed route having points of interest located on map displays. Comparable symbolic terminology can display itinerary, topical item and/or reservation confirmation information (*See DeLorme; Abstract Col. 22, lines 46-58*). Thus, DeLorme merely discloses a map with an itinerary without a display of the present location. Displaying the present location is nowhere taught or suggested by DeLorme, and further distinguishes the present application over the applied references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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